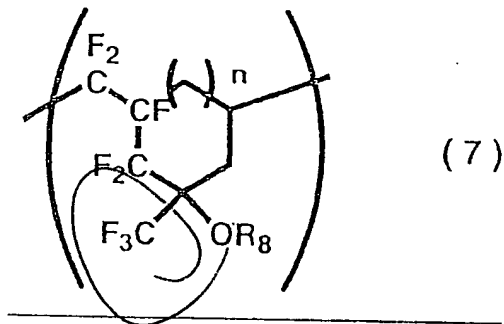


AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A positive resist composition comprising  
 (A) a resin which itself is insoluble or poorly soluble in an alkali aqueous solution but becomes soluble in an alkali aqueous solution by the action of an acid, wherein the content of halogen atoms in the resin is 40% by weight or more, at least one of structural units constituting the resin being is a structural unit having an alicyclic hydrocarbon skeleton, and the structural unit having an alicyclic hydrocarbon skeleton contains therein at least one group rendering the resin soluble in an alkali aqueous solution by the action of an acid, and at least one halogen atom, and a carbon in the alicyclic hydrocarbon skeleton may be substituted by an oxygen a structural unit of the formula (7):



wherein R<sub>8</sub> represents a hydrogen or an acid-unstable group dissociating in the presence of an acid, and n represents 0 or 1, and

(B) (a) an acid generator comprising a sulfonium salt of the formula (I)

